WL 58
17

BARNARD CASTLE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR
1955

"Teesdale Mercury," Barnard Castle

Barnard Castle

Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1955

Barnard Castle

Rural District Council

Health Department,
43, Galgate,
Barnard Castle.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1955.

During the year the new sewage disposal works were put into commission at Middleton-in-Teesdale and work was commenced on the new schemes at Cockfield, Esperley and Lands, and at Ingleton. In regard to privy conversions it is satisactory to note that considerably over half the properties in your area are now provided with water closets. Little progress was made in the scheme for providing a satisfactory water supply for the parish of Eggleston and it is to be hoped that a solution in regard to the high cost of this scheme may be found so that a much needed water supply may be obtained.

There is nothing special to note in the vital statistics for the year. The incidence of infectious diseases remained low with the exception of measles which showed a seasonal increase.

I am again indebted to the Council and to my fellow officials for their help and co-operation in matters relating to my department.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. G. PALEY,
Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health:
JOHN G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Academic Lond.),

Senior Sanitary Inspector:
JOHN GEORGE MIDDLETON, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Sanitary Inspector:
GEOFFREY NUTTER, M.S.I.A.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector:
JOHN KENNETH WALLS, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk to the Public Health Department:
JOE HODGSON.

General Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (Acres)—110,118.
Rateable Value at 1/4/56—£113,754.
Registrar General's estimate of Home Population mid-year 1955—18,900.
Sum repreented by a penny rate—£415.
The chief industries are agriculture, coal mining and stone quarrying.

Climatic Conditions.

I am indebted to the Surveyor, Mr. F. Blenkinsopp, for supplying me with the following table shewing the monthly rainfall in the Upper Teesdale area during the past five years:—

Rainfall at Latitude 54° 39' North. Upper Teesdale.

Month.	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Jan. ...	1.52	4.46	1.67	5.37	5.91
Feb. ...	6.60	1.43	2.84	2.95	3.72
Mar. ...	4.34	3.90	0.97	4.70	2.05
Apr. ...	4.52	2.93	4.78	0.75	2.27
May ...	3.97	1.68	2.89	7.29	5.63
June ...	1.43	2.67	3.76	3.28	2.05
July ...	1.91	2.85	4.49	2.45	2.06
Aug. ...	4.70	5.09	4.58	8.03	0.74
Sept. ...	3.02	5.02	4.58	7.06	2.93
Oct. ...	1.14	7.35	2.86	10.56	3.36
Nov. ...	10.75	4.05	7.67	8.62	2.84
Dec. ...	8.74	4.58	2.82	9.62	8.12

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year.

		Total	Male	Female
Live Births	Legitimate	290	147	138
	Illegitimate		4	1

Live-Birth Rate—15.3 per 1,000 home population.
Adjusted Rate—16.7 per 1,000 home population.
Corresponding Rate for England and Wales—15.0.

		Total	Male	Female
Still-Births.	Legitimate	7	3	3
	Illegitimate		1	0

Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 home population—0.31.

Still-Birth Rate for previous year—0.41.

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths.	206	114	92

Death Rate per 1,000 home population—10.9.
Adjusted Rate—11.4.
For England and Wales—11.7.

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year.

	Male.	Female
Total	8	5
Legitimate	8	5
Illegitimate	0	0

Deaths of Infants under 4 Weeks of Age.

	Male.	Female
Total	6	4
Legitimate	6	4
Illegitimate	0	0

Death Rate of Infants under 1 Year of Age.

All Infants per 1,000 live-births	44
England and Wales	24.9
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live-births ...	45
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live-births ...	—

Causes of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis, Respiratory System ...	1	0	1
Other forms of tuberculosis ...	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	1	0	1
Cancer (all types)	15	15	30
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	0
Diabetes	1	2	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	20	14	34
Coronary Disease, Angina ...	21	9	30
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	2	2	4
Other Heart Disease	13	18	31
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	7	13	20
Influenza	1	0	1
Pneumonia	2	3	5
Bronchitis	5	0	5
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	0	0	0
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	2	1	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	0	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	2	5
Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	0	4
Pregnancy, Childbirth & Abortion...	0	0	0
Congenital Malformations ...	1	0	1
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	10	8	18
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1	3
All other accidents	1	3	4
Suicide	2	1	3
	114	92	206

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

Laboratory Facilities.

A Central Public Heatlh Laboratory, controlled by a joint committee, representing the County Council of Durham, the City of Newcastle, and the County Boroughs of Gateshead and Tynemouth, has been provided to assist practitioners in the diagnosis of diphtheria, enteric fever, tuberculosis, and venereal diseases, etc.

The Laboratory is situated in Government Buildings, Ponteland Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Facilities are also provided at Bishop Auckland General Hospital, Pathological Department, for urgent bacteriological examinations.

Ambulance Facilities.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer's Ambulance Department, Durham, for the following statement relating to the working of the Ambulance Service during the year.

Table A.-

	Bishop Auckland (No. 14 Control) Area *	Bd. Castle Urban and Rural Districts
Ambulance Controls ...	1	Nil
Clerk-telephonists ...	4	Nil
Ambulance Depots ...	5	2
Ambulances ...	15	2
Sitting-Case Cars ...	1	Nil
Driver-Attendants ...	42	4

* Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts form part of this Control Area, the column adjoining showing the depots, etc., actually situated within the districts. The whole of the facilities provided in the Control Area are available to the districts. The Ambulance Control is situated at Bishop Auckland and is staffed by 4 clerk-telephonists who maintain a 24-hour service.

Table B.

Summary of work done during 1955 by vehicles stationed in
Summary of work done during 1954 by vehicles stationed in
Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts.

	Cases carried.			
Journeys.	Stretcher.	Sitting.	Total.	Mileage.
1,070	541	3,717	4,258	57,621

Note.—In addition to the above, patients residing in the urban and rural districts are also conveyed by vehicles from neighbouring depots within the Control Area and by the Darlington Ambulance Service, as occasion demands. Records are not maintained in sanitary district order and information regarding these cases cannot be conveniently supplied.

Home Nursing.

Under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the provision of a Home Nursing Service became the responsibility of the Local Health Authorities as from the 5th July, 1948. The agreement concluded with the Durham County Nursing Association, whereby the Durham County Council delegated this aspect of their functions to the Association, ceased to exist on 1st April, 1954, and the County Council took over direct administration from this date.

Direct control was also assumed by the County Council of the arrangements made for the provision of a domiciliary midwife servce.

Both servces are available free of charge.

Midwifery Service.

Cases delivered and nursed by district nurse-midwives ... 159
Hospital patients discharged from home before the 14th day 39

Home Nursing Service.

	Med.	Surg.	Tuber-culosis	Total	Included in Total Cases 65 yrs and over.	Cases 5 yrs and under.
Patients ...	249	85	4	338	147	27
Visits ...	5,800	1,877	161	7,838	2,958	299

Staff: 7 nurse-midwives.

Name.	*Address.*	*Telephone number.*
Miss E. Shenton,	13, Eden Crescent, Gainford.	Gainford 247.
Mrs. E. Walls,	48, Newholme Crescent, Evenwood.	West Auckland 264.
Mrs. V. M. Slack,	Garden House, Copley, Butterknowle.	Cockfield 254.
Miss A. V. Dunn,	9, Rest Haven, Cockfield.	Cockfield 280.
Miss M. Furlong,	Valley View, Low Etherley.	West Auckland 302.
Miss M. C. Mullin, (replaced Miss E. M. Chapman).	45, Coronation Gardens, Staindrop.	Staindrop 216.
Miss L. Earle, (replaced Mrs. C. M. Martin).	2, Victoria Terrace, Middleton-in-Teesdale	

Included in the above figure of 159 are 42 midwifery cases taken at Stainton Village, Stainton Grove, Marwood, Westwick, Whorlton, Streatlam, Middleton-in-Teesdale and Forest-in-Teesdale, and Winston by the two nurse-midwives residing in the urban district of Barnard Castle.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Child Welfare Centres administered by the Durham County Council are held at Butterknowle, Cockfield, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Staindrop, and Witton Park. Temporary School Clinics are provided at Evenwood C.E. School and Butterknowle County School. Weekly sessions, attended by an Acting School Nurse, are held at these clinics.

Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.

Cases of infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment are sent to one of the hospitals controlled by the South-West Durham Hospital Management Committee. The Marwood Hospital, situated in this area and formerly administered by the Auckland, Shildon and Willington Joint Hospital Board, has now been taken over as a private residence. There are no other hospitals in the district.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. WATER. Supplies from the Tees Valley Water Board were again satisfactory as regards quality and quantity.

Bacteriological samples were also taken during the year of supplies within the area of the Durham County Water Board, samples being taken at Bildershaw, Butterknowle, and Evenwood. All these were entirely satisfactory.

I append below the results of samples taken during the year of water supplies controlled by the Council:—

NEWBIGGIN.

Samples taken.	Results.
9- 2-55.	Grade 2. Satisfactory.
6- 4-55.	Grade 1. Highly Satisfactory.
11-10-55.	Grade 1. Highly Satisfactory.

MIDDLETON.

9- 2-55.	Grade 1. Highly Satisfactory.
6- 4-55.	Grade 1. Highly Satisfactory.
11-10-55.	Grade 3. Suspicious.

WOODLAND.

9- 2-55.	Grade 3. Suspicious.
6- 4-55.	Grade 1. Highly Satisfactory.
11-10-55.	Grade 1. Highly Satisfactory.

STAINTON.

9- 2-55.	Grade 3. Suspicious.
6- 4-55.	Grade 3. Suspicious.
11-10-55.	Grade 1. Highly Satisfactory.

COCKFIELD.

9- 2-55.	Grade 1. Highly Satisfactory.
6- 4-55.	Grade 1. Highly Satisfactory.

The samples are, on the whole, of a satisfactory standard, though there is evidence, in some cases, of a certain amount of surface contamination.

MIDDLETON-IN-TEESDALE.

In October it was reported that there was evidence of some leakage in the walls of the reservoir and it was recommended that the reservoir should be emptied and inside waterproof rendering be carried out again to the whole of the inside walls and floors.

Woodland and Copley.

No further progress was made during the year in regard to the possible augmentation of this supply.

Eggleston.

Slow progress was made with this scheme. In March, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government confirmed the Compulsory Purchase Order made by the Council for the purchase of land for spring chambers. This Order was laid before Parliament in March and came into operation on 23rd April.

Later the Ministry decided that a service reservoir holding at least one day's supply, should be included in the scheme and Messrs. D. Balfour & Sons, the Consulting Engineers, included in their scheme a reservoir of 40,000 gallons capacity. Finally the Ministry informed the Council that before the Compulsory Order for the purchase of land for the reservoir could be approved in principle this Order would have to pass through both Houses of Parliament.

Bildershaw.

Out of 25 properties occupied and situated within reasonable distance from the new mains supply, 17 have now made connection with the mains. The remaining properties, amounting to about 8, were considered sub-standard, 3 being subject to demolition orders.

WATER SHORTAGES.

Owing to drought, shortage of water occurred in the Cockfield area during October and November, the supply having to be turned off between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6-30 a.m.

During the latter half of October and during November, part of the Copley area was supplied twice weekly by water carts. Supplies owned by the Durham County Water Board and supplying part of the area, became low towards the end of the year.

Particulars of Dwelling Houses supplied from Public Water Mains.

Parish	Present Estimated Population	Total Number of Houses	Number of House supplied from Public Water Mains (a) Direct to House	(b) By stand-pipe
Bolam	81	32	27	—
Cleatlam	108	29	24	1
Cockfield	2059	685	668	4
Eggleston	414	170	—	—
Forest & Frith ...	384	121	21	2
Gainford	798	328	305	6
Hamsterley	366	131	88	2
Marwood	299	153	96	—
Middleton-in-Teesdale	1602	593	519	62
Langton	94	24	19	1
Headlam	75	28	24	—
Langleydale & Shotton	139	36	16	1
Ingleton	366	118	96	10
Hilton	76	20	10	6
Lynesack & Softley	1826	596	540	5
Morton Tinmouth ...	25	6	—	—
Newbiggin	244	87	42	16
Raby & Keverstone	224	60	6	13
Staindrop	1209	447	406	11
Streatlam & Stainton	315	191	169	1
South Bedburn ...	255	73	—	—
Wackerfield	82	29	23	6
Westwick	117	25	21	—
Whorlton	213	73	58	1
Winston	474	136	118	1
Woodland	351	127	123	3
Evenwood	3091	1077	1057	8
Etherley	1835	657	612	2

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Middleton-in-Teesdale.

It was reported by the Consulting Engineers that the new Sewage Disposal Works were put into commission on the 17th August.

Cockfield, Esperley, High and Low Lands.

A tender at a total cost of £41,500 which was accepted by the Council during the previous year was also agreed to by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and

In February the Minister stated that subject to the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, he would undertake to pay a grant of £28,000 in aid of this scheme.

Work on the scheme was commenced on the 1st June.

INGLETON.

Work on this scheme was commenced on 2nd May.

STAINTON.

An estimate of the cost of this scheme was given by the Consulting Engineers in September, the amount being £8,800. This estimate was submitted for approval by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government together with an application for grant under the Rural Water and Sewerage Acts, 1944-45.

COPELAND ROW, EVENWOOD.

In November the Surveyor reported that "All the work of laying the sewers, manholes, rising main, was now completed and work was now proceeding on the pump house."

BOLAM.

In June, a sub-committee reported to the Council on the lack of a Sewage Disposal System and inadequate sewerage in this village. They recommended that the provision of a Sewage Works and Sewerage should be considered by the Council. Later the Surveyor submitted a layout plan for the sewering of the village and a meeting was arranged with the Wear and Tees Fishery Board with reference to the question of a suitable outlet for the effluent.

HEADLAM.

A modified scheme for the sewerage of this village was approved by the Council in May. It was agreed that four cottages situated in a low position at the west end of the green should be left out of the scheme. These would be put into a good state of repair by their owners and modern septic tank drainage provided.

3. PRIVY CONVERSIONS.

During the year ending 31st December, 1955, 71 individual grants were made by the Council for privy conversions.

In addition, two combined schemes were carried out. The first scheme comprised 22 conversions at Staindrop and 49 at Cockfield, making a total of 71 conversions. The second scheme comprised 58 privy conversions in the parish of Lynesack and Softley, most of these being in Butterknowle and Southside.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The greater part of the area is covered by direct labour. Scavenging is undertaken by motor vehicles (Karrier Bantam). Two small areas which are not suitable for motor transport are let by contract.

Number of Wagons—10.

Number of full-time employees:—

Foreman Mechanic ...	1
Foreman's Assistant ...	1
Driver-Fillers	7
Fillers	4
Bulldozer Driver	1

An average of 8 additional casual fillers were employed throughout the year.

Number of Garages—2 (one owned by the Council and one rented).

Scavenging areas—7.

Summary of Work Done.

Number of closets, bins, etc., emptied	292,528
Number of loads of refuse removed	4,547
Estimated tonnage of refuse collected	9,000
Number of miles travelled by vehicles	36,451
Number of gallons of petrol used	4,417½
Number of pints of oil used	330

Controlled Tipping.

During the year the Fiat tractor was in use on the Council's tips except when engaged on rechargeable work or when the driver's services were required on public cleansing duties.

Four rechargeable jobs were carried out for the Council amounting to £71 8s. 2d.

Eight "outside" jobs amounting to £345 18s. 2d. were also carried out.

5. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Following is a summary of the work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the year 1955:—

General Summary.

	No. of Inspections	No. of Informal Notices Served	No. of Statutory Notices Served	Defects Remedied after Notice	General remarks and legal proceedings
Housing:					
Public Health and Housing Acts	1366	119	28	109	
Overcrowding	1				
Sanitary Conveniences: Insufficient and Defective	392	11	61	60	
Drainage	281	23	3	19	
Water Supply	206	1			
Dairies	11	1		1	
Food Premises	131	34		4	
Slaughterhouses:					
Public	51				
Private	852	1		1	
Tents, Vans, etc.	36				
Factories and Workplaces	32				
Keeping of Animals ...	13				
Insanitary Ashpits and Recepacles	84	4	1	4	
Smoke Nuisances	46				
Prevention of Damage by Pests, Act, 1949 ...	211				
Public Health Meat Regulations, 1924 ...	3				Case for failure to notify slaughter. Defendant fined £5 and £6/6/- costs.
Petroleum Regulations ...	13				
Public Cleansing	430				
General		7		6	
Total	4159	201	93	204	

Ash-pit privies and Ashclosets converted into water closets	224
Total number of water closets in District	3,949
Total number of ash-closets in District	2,213
Total number of ashpit privies in District	22
Total number of pails in District	65

Statement of the number and nature of inspections made during the year by the Sanitary Inspectors' Department.

		No. of Visits.
A.	GENERAL SANITATION.	
	Water Supplies	206
	Drainage	281
	Fried Fish Shops	7
	Tents, Vans and Sheds	40
	Factories	32
	Refuse Collection and Refuse Disposal	430
	Rats and Mice	211
	Schools	—
	Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	133
	Sanitary Accommodation	392
	Dangerous Buildings	34
	Petrol Regulations	13
	Smoke Observation	46
B.	HOUSING.	
	PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	
	Number of Houses Inspected	126
	Visits paid to above houses	42
	HOUSING ACTS.	
	Number of Houses Inspected	270
	Visits paid to above houses	159
	MISCELLANEOUS HOUSING VISITS	724
	OVERCROWDING.	
	Number of Houses Inspected	1
C.	INFECTIOUS DISEASES	183
D.	MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.	
	Visits to Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection Visits	903
	Grocers	42
	Dairies and Milkshops	5
	Butchers	15
	Shops and Stalls	8
	Restaurants	2
	Milk—bacteriological	6
	Milk—tubercle bacilli	6
	Miscellaneous Food Visits	57

6. DISINFESTATION.

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year 38 treatments were carried out to farms and business premises, and 37 treatments to private dwellings. In addition the various refuse tips in the Council's area were the subject of concentrated treatment on 28 occasions, and routine sewer treatments for the whole area were carried out as usual during the months of February and September.

Once again the rodent operator has been called upon for work in the public cleansing department to fill vacancies caused by illness and holidays. An efficient service has been maintained however, and all complaints of infestation have been dealt with promptly.

7. FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948.

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

	Premises	No. on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers pr'cuted
(i)	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	35	8	—	—
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	41	25	—	—
(iii)	Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	25	107	—	—
	Total	101	140	0	0

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND: Nil.

OUTWORK.

No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110(1)(c)—making, etc., wearing apparel—1.

SMOKE ABATEMENT. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. SECTION 101-106.

Monthly readings of the grit deposit gauges were taken throughout the year. Following is the average of the readings from the two gauges for the twelve months:—

	Tons per sq. Mile.
Deposit Gauge Bowl No. D1293.	
West View, Evenwood	40.49
Deposit Gauge Bowl No. D1275.	
Steel's Field, Evenwood	62.35

In June a sub-committee of the Tees-side Smoke Abatement Committee held a meeting with representatives of Messrs. Sadler & Co. Ltd., at their Evenwood By-Product Works, to discuss the question of grit emission from this Plant. The Manager, on behalf of Messrs. Sadler & Co. Ltd., gave the following information:—

(1) Another set of boilers was to be re-sited.

(2) The new boiler settings were at present under construction.

(3) Mechanical stokers of an entirely different principle to the present sprinkler type were to be installed. This, in itself, was expected to reduce the grit emission.

(4) A grit chamber with baffles was to be included in the plant construction.

(5) A further measure was being considered, namely, the provision of an Economiser. This would be installed at a later date and on completion of the remainder of the plant.

It was felt by the sub-committee that when these works of modification had been carried out there would be a substantial improvement in the present nuisance.

At a visit paid to the works later in the year it was found that one Lancashire boiler on the new site was in use and was being fired with gas. Two additional Lancashire boilers were in process of installation. The mechanical feeders which were to be fitted to the new boilers had not yet arrived.

HOUSING.

During the year 43 houses were completed and occupied.

Distribution of Houses built and occupied during the year.

Parish.	2 Bedroom.	3 Bedroom.	Bungalows.	Flats.	Total
Cockfield ...	2	1	—	—	3
Etherley ...	6	6	—	—	12
Evenwood ...	2	4	10	—	16
Staindrop ...	—	—	—	12	12
	10	11	10	12	43

Statement of Housing Situation at end of 1955.

Parish.	Houses completed and occupied at 31-12-55.	In course of erection.	Tender approved not commenced
Bolam ...	3	—	—
Cockfield ...	93*	—	32
Evenwood ...	164†	28	—
Etherley ...	78	—	20
Gainford ...	82	—	—
Middleton-in-Teesdale	60	—	—
Staindrop ...	88‡	—	—
Stainton ...	10	—	—
Woodland ...	8	—	—
Whorlton ...	4	—	—
Butterknowle ...	4	—	—
Ingleton ...	22	—	—
Winston ...	6	—	—
Copley ...	8	—	—
Hamsterley ...	6	—	—
Totals ...	636	28	52

* Includes 10 Bungalows. † Includes 14 Bungalows.
‡ Includes 12 Flats.

Building by Private Enterprise.

Twelve houses (7 bungalows and 5 houses) were completed and occupied during the year. Two bungalows were in course of construction by the end of the year.

Building by the War Department.

No building construction was carried out by the War Department in the Military Camps during the year. A school for infant and junior children from service families is now functioning in the camp. This school is staffed and administered by Durham County Education Committee.

Moveable Dwellings. Public Health Act, 1936. Section 269.

As in the previous year, a total of 18 moveable dwellings were licensed by the local authority.

Closing and Demolition of Houses.

A. Formal Action.

(i) Number of houses demolished during year as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action 5

(ii) No. of houses **closed** but not demolished as a result of formal action 4

(iii) No. of houses in Clearance Areas, demolition of which temporarily postponed ... 25

(iv) No. of demolition orders made but houses not demolished during year 1

B. Informal Action.

(1) No. of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above Nil

Reconditioning and Repair.

No. of houses made fit during year by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts:—

(a) As a result of informal action 131

(b) By owners as a result of statutory notice ... 73

(c) By local authority in default of owners ... Nil

Housing Act, 1936.

Statement of properties in Confirmed Clearance Orders at 31st December, 1955.

No. of Order.	Date of Order.	Situation of Property.	No. of houses in Order.	No. Demolished.	No. empty.	No. occupied
1.	18/5/38.	Jubilee Terr., Evenwood ...	2	Nil	1	1
7.	18/4/39.	Magdalene Place, Woodland ...	2	Nil	2	Nil
8.	18/5/38.	Bildershaw Bk., W. Auckland	2	Nil	2	Nil
10.	18/4/39.	Quarry Houses, Toft Hill ...	2	Nil	2	Nil
13.	18/4/39.	Butwell Terrace, Hamsterley	4	3	1	Nil
14.	18/4/39.	Crake Scarr, Woodland ...	3	Nil	2	1
16.	18/4/39.	Garforth Pond, Merwood, Barnard Castle ...	3	Nil	3	Nil
18.	18/4/39.	Brookside, Staindrop ...	6	Nil	2	4
19.	19/4/39.	Brown's Buildings, Ingleton ...	4	Nil	3	1

Houses Occupied under Licence.

I give below a list of houses situated in Clearance Areas or listed under Demolition Orders, which were occupied under licence during the year.

(1) Clearance Areas.
12, Jubilee Terrace, Evenwood.
4, Crake Scar, Woodland.
4, Meadow View, Ingleton (Brown's Buildings).
4 cottages Brookside, Staindrop.

(2) Under Demolition Orders
248, Toft Hill (formerly 150).
18, Hude, Middleton-in-Teesdale.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

In accordance with the recommendation made in March, 1954, to local authorities by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, a sub-committee was appointed to inspect and decide on the procedure in regard to properties listed by the officials concerned as coming within the category of unfit houses. The first meeting of this sub-committee took place in January and subsequent meetings and visits of inspection were held in the months following. It was decided that a total of 261 houses came within the category of unfit and that these houses should be dealt with in the Council's five-year programme. I append a summary of the properties concerned together with the proposed action to be taken in regard to them:

	PROPERTIES.			
Parish.	Clearance Areas.	Demolition Orders.	Closing Orders.	Total.
Cockfield ...	24	2	1	27
Etherley ...	32	13	—	45
Evenwood & Barony ...	73	4	—	77
Forest & Frith ...	—	6	—	6
Gainford ...	6	1	2	9
Hamsterley ...	—	5	—	5
Lynesack & Softley ...	48	2	5	55
Marwood ...	—	1	—	1
Middleton-in-Teesdale ...	—	3	—	3
Newbiggin-in-Teesdale ...	—	3	—	3
Staindrop ...	—	4	1	5
Whorlton ...	—	3	—	3
Woodland ...	21	1	—	22
Grand Totals ...	204	48	9	261

Later it was decided by the Council in December that the Slum Clearance Programme for the year 1955/56 should be as follows:—

EVENWOOD.

The Oaks. Nos. 8 to 24 and Nos. 27 to 43 (all inclusive).

COCKFIELD.

Draff Yard. Nos. 1 to 10 and building used as poultry house.
Fell View. Nos. 1 to 4.
School Square. Nos. 4, 5 and 6.
Esperley Lane. Nos. 33, 34, 37, 38, 39 and 40.

Consideration of the question of building further houses was deferred until April of the present year.

Inspection of Council Houses.

During the latter half of the year a series of inspections of Council houses was commenced by the Assistant Sanitary Inspector with a view to ascertaining the state of cleanliness in which their houses were kept by the tenants. I append below a summary of his findings by the end of the year.

Parish.	State of Cleanliness. Clean.	Fairly Clean.	Dirty.
Middleton-in-Teesdale ...	69	4	6
Staindrop ...	75	3	2
Cockfield ...	83	8	3
Stainton ...	10	—	—
Winston ...	4	2	—
Ingleton ...	27	1	2
Etherley ...	62	4	3
Totals ...	330	22	16

As will be seen, out of a total of 368 houses visited, only 16 (4.3%) were found to be in a dirty condition and 22 (5.9%) were classified as "fairly clean." This latter category may have been influenced to some extent by the fact that previous notice of the visit had been given, but even so it seems evident that in a large proportion of cases, the houses are satisfactorily maintained. Frequent visits of inspection will be made of those houses classified as unsatisfactory.

Applications for Council Houses.

There continues to be a large demand for Council houses in some parts of the area, and I give below the approximate figures for housing applications in some of the larger parishes:—

	No. of applic's at 31-12-52.	No. of Applic's at 31-12-53	No. of Applic's at 31-12-54.	No. of Applic's at 31-12-55.
Cockfield ...	101	80	78	82
Etherley ...	47	56	38	62
Evenwood ...	83	103	92	93
Gainford ...	46	60	45	45
Butterknowle ...	16	7	2	4
Middleton & Newbiggin ...	32	34	9	26
Staindrop ...	82	65	86	70
Woodland ...	18	14	6	6

Housing Act, 1949. Sections 20-25.

During the year improvement grants to the value of £9.600 were awarded by the Council in regard to 40 properties situated within the rural district.

8. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

There are at the present time six dealers registered with the Council under the Regulations. Three of the licences are granted for the sale of Tuberculin Tested milk, two for T.T. Pasteurised and Pasteurised, and one for T.T. Pateurised and Sterilised. Four Supplementary licences were issued permitting the designations "Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised and Pasteurised," "Sterilised" and "T.T. Pasteurised."

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

Milk Supplies only. Samples are submitted to the Agricultural Department, King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, or to the Public Health Laboratories, Northallerton.

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949. Section 20.

During the year 7 samples of milk were taken from from the supplies of seven producers by the Sanitary Department. All samples were found to be free of tubercle but in one case the result was positive for brucella abortus.

Ice Cream. (Heat Treatment, Etc.) Regulations.

There were one retail-manufacturer and 49 retailers registered in the district at the end of the year.

No samples were taken during the year, but it may be noted that all retailers in the area now sell pre-packed ice cream.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938. SECTION 13.

Food Premises.

Inspections of food premises were made during the year by the Assistant Sanitary Inspector. I give below a summary of the conditions found and the action taken as a result of these inspections:—

Notices sent with regard to cleanliness or items of disrepair.

Type of business.	Informal notices re Cleanliness.	Informal notices for disrepair.	No. of premises Inspected
General Dealer ...	20	15	36
Butchers' shops and making-up premises	2	3	5
Fish Shops ...	2	2	4
Bakehouses ...	1	1	1
Chemists & Drug Stores	2	1	2
Cafe ...	0	0	1
	27	22	49

Food Premises.

Following is a list of Food Premises situated in the Rural District:—

General Dealers	...	79
Fish Friers	...	11
Fruiterers	...	6
Confectioners	...	12
Cafes	...	4
Butchers	...	19
Bakers	...	4

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

Two cases occurred during the year, the first being a lady aged 36 years living in Evenwood, who suffered from symptoms of dysentery, but it was found later that the germ causing the illness was one of the food poisoning group. She did not call in her doctor for some weeks after the onset of symptoms and it was not possible to trace the origin of the infection, but it is possible that it was caused by some imported food such as prepared meat or food made with imported dried eggs.

The other case was a young soldier from Streatlam Camp who was admitted to Catterick Camp Hospital.

Slaughtering.

In most cases slaughtering has taken place at reasonable hours during the year, but there are usually a few killing in the evenings during the week and three butchers regularly kill on Sundays. On the whole the standards of

slaughtering in use in the area are fairly good, but in one or two cases where unsatisfactory conditions were found, improvements have since been carried out.

Public Health Meat Regulations.

Meat inspections were carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors employed by the Council. All three officers hold the Meat and Other Foods Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

The following table shosw the number of animals killed, inspected and found unfit for human consumption at Private Slaughterhouses in the area during the year:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed (if known)	452	567	19	1389	760	—
Number Inspected	452	567	19	1386	760	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	—	1	2	5	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	69	159	1	22	42	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	15.2	28.01	15.7	1.9	5.6	—
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcases condemned	1	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	18	57	—	—	27	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	4.2	10.2	—	—	3.5	—
Cysticercosis:						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemdned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The total number of children aged under 15 who received a primary course of immunisation during the year showed a considerable falling off compared with recent years. The average figure for the years 1948-54 has been 235 children (total aged under 15) of which 174 were aged under 5 and 61 over 5, and the yearly totals have remained remarkably steady up to 1954. It is difficult to account for the sudden fall, but I consider that it is not so much due to any increasing objection to immunisation itself on the part of parents but that parents will not always make the effort to arrange to have the inoculations carried out.

The facilities available for immunisation were the same as in previous years.

	Age at date of Final Injection. 0-4 years.	5-14 years.	Total Under 15
Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the authority's area in the 12 months ending 31/12/55 ...	137	34	171
Number given reinforcing injections during the year		88	

There were again no cases of diphtheria notified in the district during the year.

The incidence of scarlet fever, though slightly higher than in the previous year (13 cases compared with 8 in 1954 and 5 in 1953) was again low. The notification rate was 0·68 per 1,000 population compared with a rate of 0.42 for the previous year.

There was an increase in the incidence of measles, the notification rate being 11.3 per 1,000 population compared with a rate of 0.74 for the previous year.

The number of cases of whooping cough showed a big fall (11 cases compared with 92 in 1954 and 43 in 1953). The notification rate was 0.58 compared with a rate of 4.8 for the previous year.

Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis).

No cases were notified in the area during the year.

DYSENTERY.

A considerable number of cases of sickness and diarrhoea occur during the summer months throughout the country. Within recent years increasingly frequent outbreaks of illness of this type in schools have drawn attention to the fact of bacterial dysentery. The disease is easily spread, particularly where precautions are not taken to wash the hands after use of the toilet. The presence of insanitary earth or ash closets will also help to spread the infection through the medium of flies. In this area a number of cases was reported in June and July mostly of children attending Evenwood C.E. school. The greater proportion of the children were of the age group 5-7 years. Advice was given through the Head Teacher as to precautions necessary to prevent the spread of infection and individual paper hand towels were issued for use by the children by the Education Authority.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year

		Admitted to Hospital.	Diagnosis Not confirmed.	Total Cases
Scarlet Fever ...	13	9	—	13
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	7	1	—	7
Pneumonia ...	11	—	—	11
Ophthalmia ...	—	—	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ...	—	—	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis Food Poisoning ...	2	1	—	2
(Non Paralytic)	—	—	—	—
Ac. Infect Encephalitis	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—
Meningococcol Infections	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	214	—	—	214
Whooping Cough ...	11	—	—	11
Dysentery ...	46	—	16	30

	Under 1 Year	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over	Age unknown
Scarlet Fever	0	0	2	9	2	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0
Pneumonia	1	0	1	0	3	1	2	3	0
Measles	11	43	57	95	8	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	1	2	5	3	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	4	4	17	1	0	2	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1955.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
15	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
45	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	4	1	1	0	1	0	0	0